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# LESSON 7

## THE JOINT REQUIREMENTS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL AND THE JOINT WARFARE CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENTS PROCESS

### Introduction

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<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This lesson explains the</p> <p>wHistory, role, function, and post-Cold War value of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC)</p> <p>wJoint Warfare Capabilities Assessments (JWCA) process</p>
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<b>Importance of the Study</b>	<p>This lesson complements material presented previously on the evolution of the Goldwater-Nichols Act and its importance to the warfighter and future commander.</p>
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<b>Relationship to Other Instruction</b>	<p>It is logical that this lesson comes after our discussion of</p> <p>wThe Unified Action Armed Forces</p> <p>wThe Unified Command Plan</p> <p>wThe Joint Strategic Planning System</p> <p>All are aspects of national decision making and are critical links to any analysis of current U.S.</p> <p>wNational Security Strategy (NSS)</p> <p>wNational Military Strategy (NMS)</p>
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<b>Study Time</b>	<p>This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 2.5 hours of study.</p>
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## Educational Objectives

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<b>JROC/JWCA Histories</b>	Chart the historical development of both the JROC and JWCA processes. [JPME Area 1c]
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<b>Roles/Functions of Key Players</b>	Analyze the role and functions of key players within the JROC and the JWCA processes. [JPME Areas 1c, 4a, 4c]
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<b>Assess Value</b>	Assess the value of JROC and JWCA in the post-Cold War environment.
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<b>JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)</b>	1/c/0.5 4/a/0.5 4/c/0.5
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## General Framework Provided by the Goldwater-Nichols Act

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### **Goldwater-Nichols Act**

The Goldwater-Nichols Act (G-NA) of October 1986 mandated, among other things, a joint approach to warfighting. Two important outcomes were the processes it established for the

wJoint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) that replaced the Joint Requirements and Management Board in June 1986

wJoint Warfare Capabilities Assessments (JWCA)

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### **Oversight of the JWCA Process By the JROC**

The Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) oversees the Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessment (JWCA) process. By directing assessments in the joint military capability areas, the JROC

wHelps examine the relationships and interactions between joint warfighting capabilities

wIdentifies opportunities to improve warfighting effectiveness

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### **JROC's Goal and Mission**

The JROC's goal is to provide the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) a view of warfighting requirements, readiness, and plans.

More importantly, the JROC's *mission* is to ensure that future military requirements correlate with the fundamental principles of the National Military Strategy (NMS).

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### **Added Responsibilities for the CJCS**

The G-NA charged the CJCS with responsibility for advising the Secretary of Defense on joint military requirements and, at the same time, assessing requirements for acquisition programs from the separate Military Departments. The G-NA specifically required the CJCS to

wPrioritize defense requirements for the Secretary of Defense

wAssess capabilities

wPresent alternative acquisition and budget proposals

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## How the JROC Developed

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**Expansion of the JROC** The JROC's function was symbolic at first; it provided only informal advice to the CJCS. In time, the CJCS was to direct the expansion of the JROC charter to more fully support his statutory responsibilities.

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**1994:  
Shalikashvili  
Bolstered the  
JROC** In 1987, the Vice Chairman Joint Chief of Staff (VCJCS) was designated the JROC chairman. This bolstered the VCJCS' power.

By 1994, General John Shalikashvili, as CJCS, began to rely more heavily on the JROC to help him better assess the military departments' program recommendations.

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**The 1996 Defense  
Authorization Act** The *1996 Defense Authorization Act* was put into effect in 1997 and provided specific guidelines for the Secretary of Defense to establish the JROC. In accordance with the act

wThe CJCS would still be the chairman of the JROC but the CJCS was given statutory authorization to *delegate* his JROC chairmanship functions to the Vice Chairman of the JCS.

wThe purpose of the JROC was still to "assist the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in identifying and assessing the priority of joint military requirements."

The bottom line remained the same: The JROC was to be an instrument of the Secretary of Defense to ensure interservice coordination and communication.

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## How the JROC and JWCA Work Together

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### **JROC and JWCA**

The JROC and the JWCA processes are inextricably linked. The general JWCA process by which the CJCS conducts assessments of military needs

wUses teams of warfighting and functional area experts from

wThe joint staff

wThe unified commands

wThe services

wThe office of the Secretary of Defense

wDefense agencies

wOther sources as required

wEnsures maximum utilization of the capabilities of the services and Defense agencies with an eye towards improving those capabilities

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### **Decision Making**

Today, the JROC and JWCA processes provide significant decision making mechanisms for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) to support joint strategic planning and interaction with the Planning, Programming, and Budgeting System (PPBS).

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## Required Readings

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**Strategic Level of War Readings** *JROC: Planning in a Revolutionary Age*. Office of the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff 1996. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. G-3 to G-34. This document highlights the evolution of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) from its days as the Joint Requirements and Management Board (JRMB) in 1984, through various expansions and changes, to its solidified form in 1996.

Toti, William J. "It's Broken! Fix It!" *Armed Forces Journal International*, April 1996, pp. 29-34. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. G-35 to G-38. This article provides a background and evaluation of former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's, Admiral Bill Owen, process of determining Joint Warfighting requirements called Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessment (JWCA). In addition to pointing out problem areas, CDR Toti also suggests new directions.

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## For Further Study

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### Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

wJoint Pub 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)*, 24 February 1995.

wJoint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*, 1 February 1995.

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## Issues for Consideration

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### **JROC Purpose and Mission**

What is the purpose and mission of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC)?

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### **History of the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986**

How did the Goldwater-Nichols Act (G-NA) of 1986 change the relationships of our nation's services and the nature of planning for both National Military Strategy (NMS) and National Security Strategy (NSS)? Trace the significant developments in the evolution of planning from separate to joint processes.

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### **JROC Representatives**

Who serves on the JROC besides the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff (VCJCS)?

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### **Definition of JWCA's**

What are Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessments (JWCA)?

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### **JWCA Support of CJCS**

How do JWCA support the duties of the CJCS?

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### **CINC's Role**

What is the role of the CINCs in the JWCA process?